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# The new face of resource sharing: A survey of academic library direct borrowing consortia

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# The New Face of Resource Sharing: A Survey of Academic Library Direct Borrowing Consortia

The  
Graduate  
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Department: Library and Information Science

## Abstract

This exploratory study reviews the practice of **direct consortial borrowing** in U.S. academic libraries and describes the policies and software used by the major consortia. Several patterns emerged that could lead to increased library collaboration in the future.

## Direct Consortial Borrowing

Direct consortial borrowing allows patrons to discover materials through a union catalog and directly request items from the library that owns them.

Also known as:

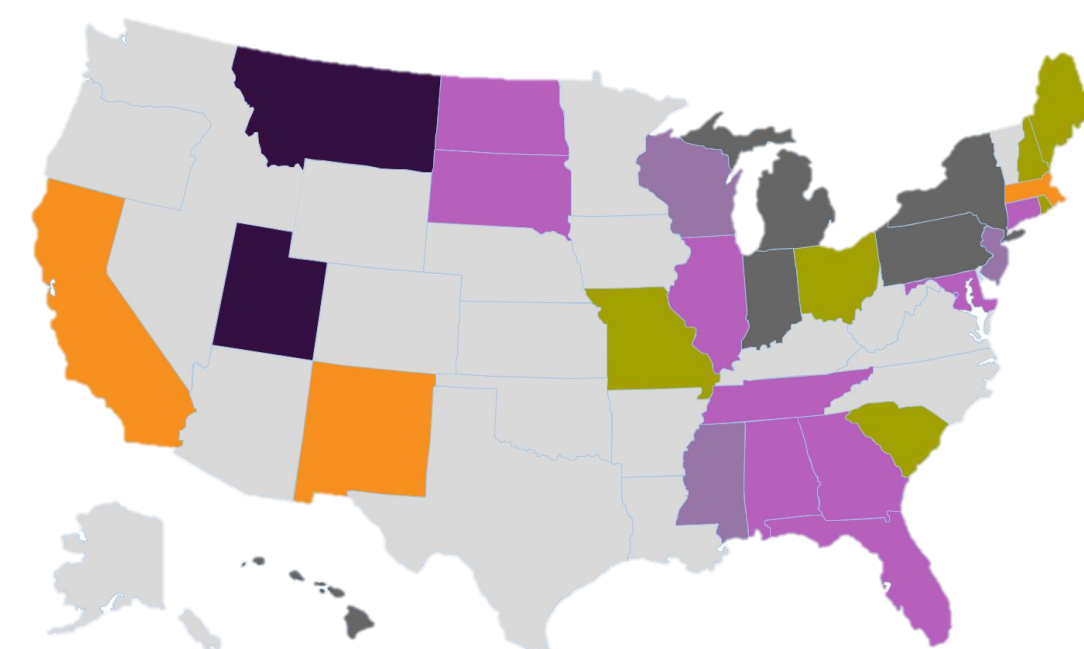
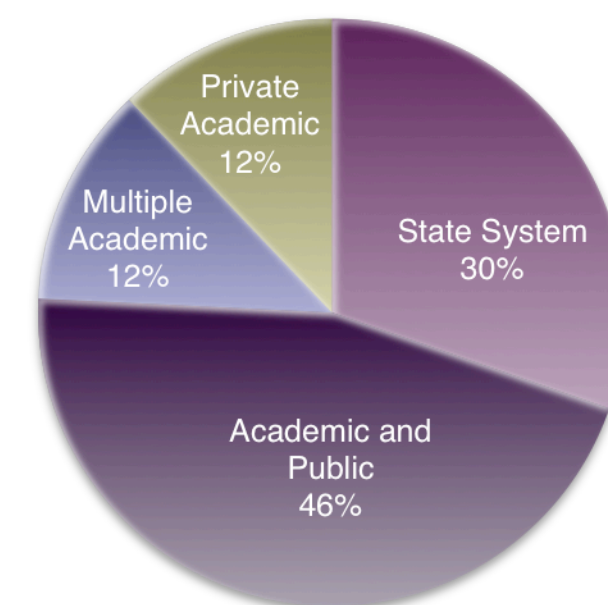
**Patron-initiated borrowing**  
**Unmediated interlibrary loan**

## Method

This study began with a literature review on direct consortial borrowing consortia. Next, extensive web searches were conducted for consortia websites, which were analyzed for policies and procedures. Consortia were verified using the International Coalition of Library Consortia.

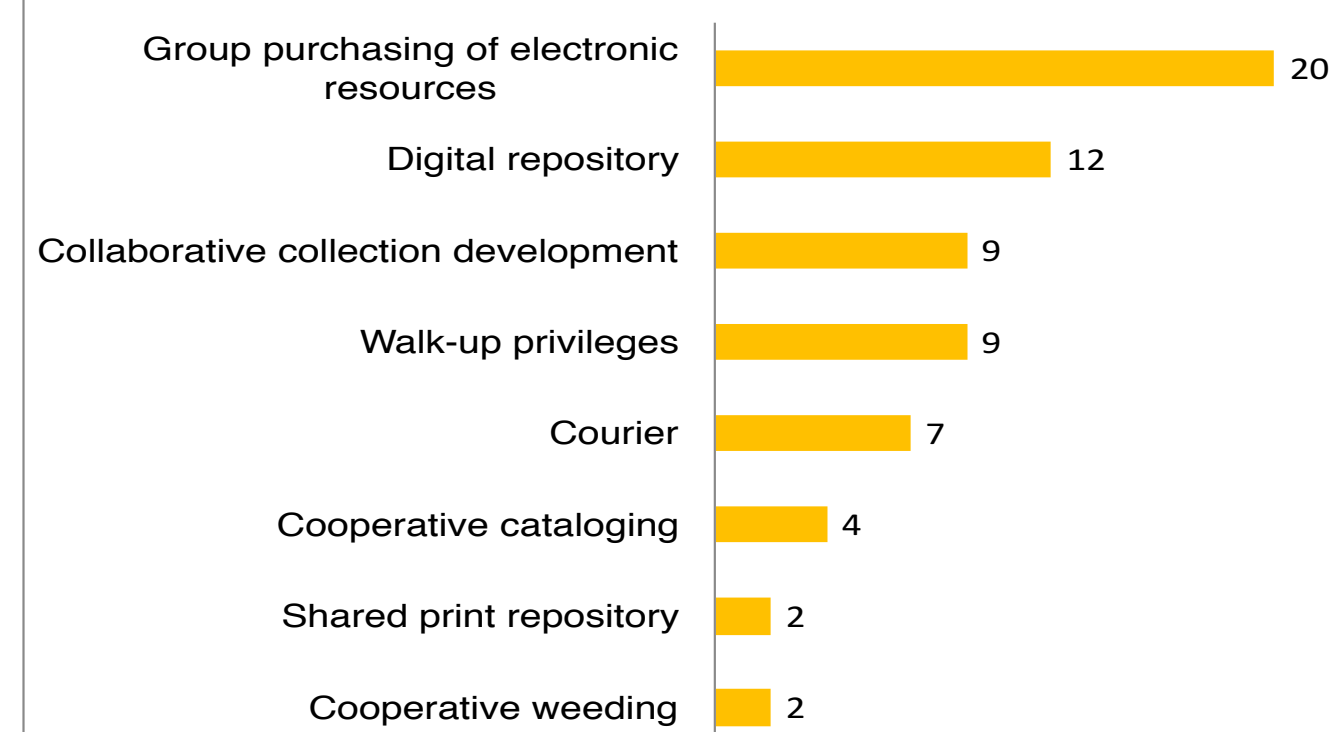
## Results: State-Based Consortia

### Library Type



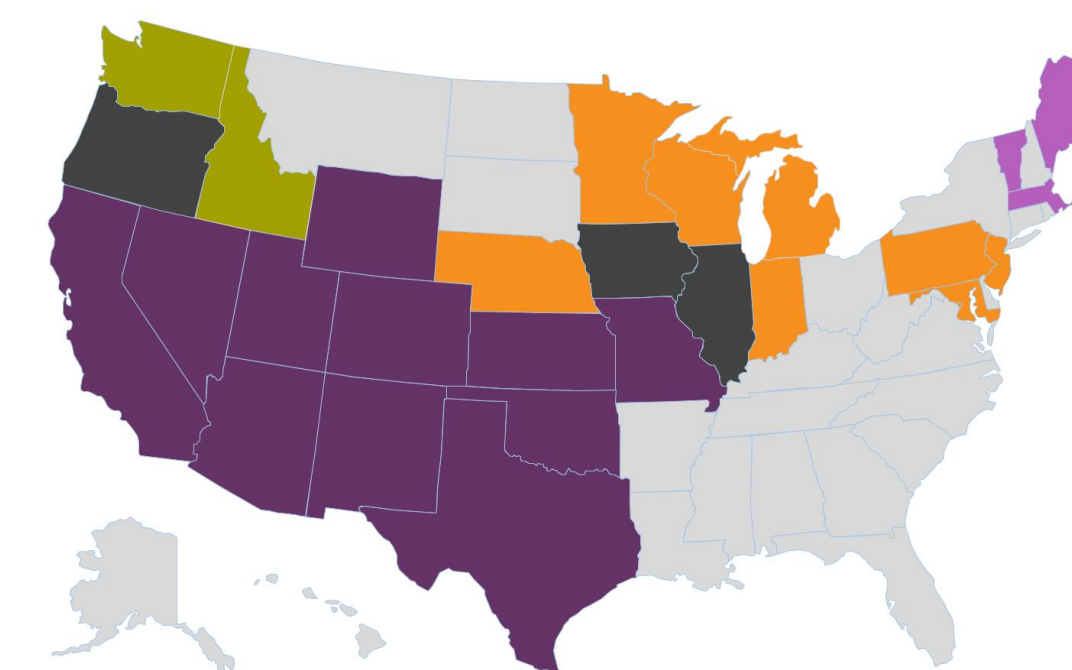
States with state-based direct borrowing consortia  
(Color indicates the type of resource-sharing software used)

### Common features



## Results: Multi-state Consortia

- 7 major multi-state consortia
- Most are region-based, some tied by other affiliation
- More likely to combine library types
- Less likely to pursue group purchasing or collaborative collection development
- Many have courier services



A map of the largest multi-state direct borrowing consortia

## Results: Software Used

The study revealed two methods of integrating libraries through software for direct consortial borrowing.

### Shared Integrated Library System

- Completely integrated circulation
- Public union catalog

- Option to combine cataloging and acquisitions functions
- Most common in state-based direct borrowing consortia

### NCIP Software

- Acts as a bridge between ILS
- Public union catalog
- Patron authentication through LDAP or proprietary protocol
- Circulation status updated in real time
- Allows much larger network of resource sharing partners



## Conclusion

The study concluded that there exists an opportunity for potential collaboration between the states of the Southeast, many of which currently use a similar software for their individual state-based direct borrowing consortia.

## Special Thanks

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